AIR FORCE RESEARCH LABORATORY [AFRL]

Manager of the Basic Research Investment for the Air Force Research Laboratory

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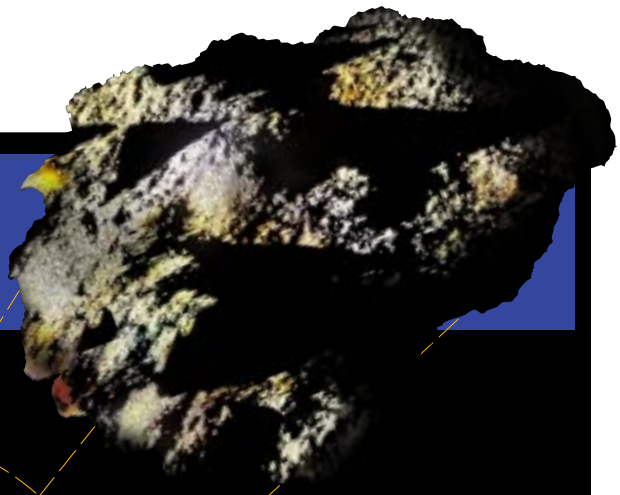
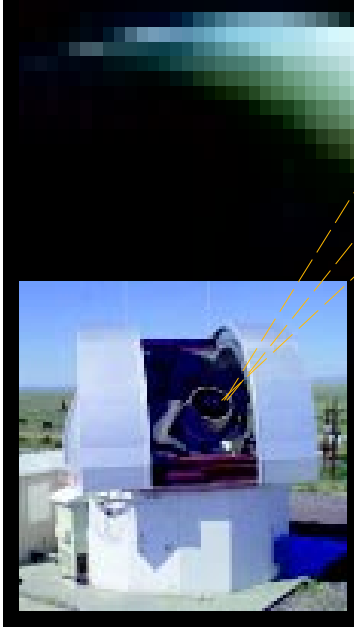
Research HIGHLIGHTS



Space Tracking Technology Focuses on Deep Space

A new, state-of-the-art space tracking technology will give the Air Force better situational awareness of the space environment by providing better detection and tracking of objects in deep space.



This new technology, developed by an AFOSR-supported research team lead by Dr. Grant Stokes at MIT-Lincoln Laboratory, improves the worldwide capability for detection of Near Earth Objects (NEOs) by 300 percent.

Basic research in detection and tracking of NEOs benefits the Air Force's mission in space by:

- Providing a test-bed to develop enhanced technology for the detection of smaller, fainter, and more slowly moving space objects, and
- Contributing to multi-agency initiatives intended to identify, catalog, and predict the orbits of space objects that may pose a threat to the Earth, or high-value space assets such as the International Space Station, among others.

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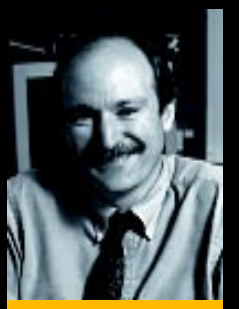

Dr. Grant Stokes

Dr. Grant H. Stokes, who leads the LINEAR research, is with Lincoln Laboratory of MIT. He is the associate leader of the Surveillance Techniques group, where he specializes in analysis, design, and operations of space-surveillance systems, including the Space-Based Visible (SBV) and LINEAR programs.